



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

Restaurant owners criminally charged with harboring illegal aliens *Five employees also arrested*

DES MOINES, Iowa — The owners of two restaurants in southwest Iowa towns were criminally charged this week in U.S. District Court here with harboring illegal aliens, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Shui Ming Lin, 42, and Xiu Wen Zhang, 34, both citizens of China, were arrested Monday and Wednesday, respectively, and were charged with harboring, encouraging or inducing employees to reside in the U.S., knowing they were in the country illegally. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Lin and Zhang own and operate the China Garden Restaurant in Atlantic, Iowa, and the Panda Garden Restaurant in Harlan, Iowa. On Wednesday, June 21, special agents with the ICE office in Omaha arrested five restaurant employees for immigration law violations. The ICE agents were assisted by: the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General; the Atlantic Police Department; the Harlan Police Department; and the Region Four Fusion Center in Atlantic. Those arrested include: Fun Man Chan, 37; Xiu Zhu Lin, 32; Qing Chen, 19; Xing Xiang Dong, 39, all citizens of China. Also arrested was Luis Garcia-Torres, 20, a citizen of Mexico. All are being held in U.S. Marshals Service custody as material witnesses in the criminal case.

As with any criminal case, a charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

According to criminal complaints filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, Lin and Zhang paid the above employees between \$400 and \$1,600 per month in cash, in addition to providing lodging and transportation to and from the restaurants. Several of the employees arrested told investigators that they were paying off smuggling fees as high as \$72,000 to “snakeheads,” or smugglers, for aiding their illegal entry into the U.S.

“ICE has no patience for employers who tolerate or perpetuate a shadow economy,” said William L. Wallrapp, resident agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Omaha. “We will use all our investigative tools to bring such employers to justice, no matter how large or small the company.”

According to court documents, restaurant employees told ICE investigators that Lin and Zhang did not complete required employment paperwork, including the federal form I-9, which documents work eligibility for each employee.

In fiscal year 2005, ICE initiated 511 criminal worksite investigations nationwide. These cases resulted in 176 criminal arrests, 140 criminal indictments and 127 criminal convictions. Through May of fiscal year 2006, ICE has launched more than 219 criminal worksite investigations. These cases have resulted in 382 criminal arrests, 82 criminal indictments, and 80 criminal convictions. Furthermore, these efforts have resulted in the arrest of 2,100 individuals on administrative immigration violations.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.